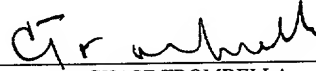


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CHASE TROMBELLA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

FITZGERALD, et al.

Serial No.: To Be Assigned

Filing Date: To Be Assigned

For: DISTRIBUTED COMPUTER NETWORK
INCLUDING HIERARCHICAL
RESOURCE INFORMATION STRUCTURE
AND RELATED METHOD OF
DISTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment for the above-identified application.

AMENDMENT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please revise page 1, lines 1-3 of the specification. The following is a replacement paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application

This is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/870,048 filed May 29, 2001, which is a Continuation of US Serial No. 08/979,083, filed November 26, 1997, which is a

Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/756,730, filed November 26, 1996 now abandoned,
which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/237,498, filed May 2, 1994 which is now
U.S. Patent No. 5,581,764, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Serial No.
08/056,333, filed April 30, 1993 now abandoned.

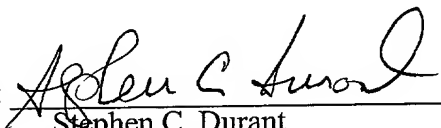
REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification
and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With
Markings to Show Changes Made**".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document
and the Patent Office determines that other relief is required, applicant petitions for any
required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to
charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this
document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 363512004304.
However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee
to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 4, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Stephen C. Durant
Registration No. 31,506

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2482
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Cross-Reference to Related Patent Application

This is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/870,048 filed May 29, 2001, which is a Continuation of US Serial No. 08/979,083, filed November 26, 1997, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/756,730, filed November 26, 1996 now abandoned, which is a Continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/237,498, filed May 2, 1994 which is now U.S. Patent No. 5,581,764, which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Serial No. 08/056,333, filed April 30, 1993 now abandoned.